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POINTS THAT DESERVE SPECIAL ATTENTION AND WHICH CAME OUT DURING THE RAJPUT REGIMENTAL REUNION

DATE OF THE REUNION

1 Middle of March is much too late, particularly from the point of view of Inter Battalion Hockey and Basket Ball and sports competitions. Most of the matches and heats had to be when it was quite hot. From past experience the most suitable month is early February and we should stick to it. March is not very suitable from the point of view of harvest of winter crop- no wonder the number of pensioners, both JCOs and Jawans was low.

GUARD OF HONOUR

2 Should be given to those only entitled to. If those who were entitled to while in service are to be given Guards of Honou as a special privilege it should be approved by higher authorities beforehand. I was told that this had been done, off the record, I am however not sure of this, nor were the Area and Sub Area Commanders.

PARADE

3 A Regimental or Centre parade should be only held if it is absolutely certain that the Colonel of the Regiment would be attending the function, if for some reasons he cannot come even at the eleventh hour, the parade should be cancelled. In this instance I was much pressed by the Centre Commander, other CCs and senior Rajput officers to take the parade, however, knowing that it would be quite wrong to do so, I was adament that I did not take the parade. I was right. However, the GOC-in-C having taken the parade on a Reunion day did not go down well at all, and all sorts of stories were woven round it, efforts were made to dispel them but it left rather an unsavoury taste in the mouths of quite a few. If the Colonel of the Regimen (and he might be only a Brigadier) is not present and a parade is held the only person who could take the salute would be senior local commander and not a pensioned officer, whatever rank he might have held except that of a Field Marshal. Therefore the GOC-in-C taking the parade was quite in order and the only way

out, once the parade was held, all the same during a Reunion, taking of salute by any one except the Colonel of the Regiment should be avoided. Pensioned JCOs, NCOs and men as well those in the service do not like it on a Reunion day. In fact as the story reached DELHI, there was quite a strong feeling none except Regimental officers should attend Reunions, it being an entirely family affair, and none should take a parade except the Colonel of the Regiment.

REGIMENTAL GUESTS

4 There should be a firm policy with regard to this. A decision should be made at the COs' conference or by correspondence, with regard to the detailed programme of Reunion, as well as whether there should be any Regimental Guest. It appears that ~~those~~ who were invited were not in consultation with the battalion commanders. If this is a fact then it was quite wrong to invite them. Unless we have some such definite policy the Centre Commandant will either 'spread himself' in inviting those he wishes, or feels he must lest be 'blotted' his copy books with the local commanders. No Regimental guests should have been invited without the approval of the Colonel of the Regiment, and I wonder whether this was done. Inspite of my 'putting cold water on this issue, the feeling amongst some of the senior officers and COs was quite strong. Particularly as the Regimental guests hardly made an effort to mix with the officers, JCOs, pensioners or otherwise. This was a pity. It was also felt that the CO of the Centre and his family clung round the VIP rather than mix with the pensioned officers, JCOs, on the big day and although I am all for inviting a VIP such as the Governor, the Chief Minister, or the Army Commander, the selection must be done by the COs and on their the Colonel of the Regimental should be the final authority to approve of the list.

OFFICIAL INSPECTION OR VISITS BY LOCAL COMMANDERS

5 Both the Area and Army Commanders carried out an official visit or inspection of the lines etc. This is to be done on a Regimental Reunion Day to my mind was absolutely wrong. The Centre Commandant is a much too busy man to cater for such inspections or visits, and he should be left in peace by the local commanders. It would be another matter, if some of them - the Sub Area, or the Area Commander or their staff paid the Centre a visit a few days prior to the big day to find out what help was required by the Centre, and what their problems were.

THE REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES

6 They were impressive. The turn out of the boys of the hostel might have been better, and the Pandit in the temple should be given a proper "Pitamberi" dress, which he should wear on all official occasions.

7 <u>The Buffet Lunch in the Mess</u>

The Regimental ladies should serve and play the host rather than go in a huddle or the senior lady hangs round the VIPs. The ladies must learn to mix freely, the least that could be done would be for the friends of the lady's husband to attend to her and not to feel out of place or awkward, which leads to huddling.

THE VARIETY SHOW

8 Was of the same rather indifferent standard as prewar. It appeared that there was nonne who could have given the necessary guidance.

THE BARA KHANA

9 Except for the very few, most of the officers congregated by themselves and around a VIP. They including the Regimental guests all should have spread themselves with the men, after all that is the charm of the officers joinging the Jawan in the Bara Khana, otherwise they have their own messes or dining halls for daily use.

THE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

10 It was taken at a bad time of the day from point of view of light. It should be taken immediately after the parade, and before the finals of the hockey, unless some other more suitable time should be arranged.

THE OPENING OF THE CINDER TRACK

11 Although I was asked to do the opening ceremoney and to take the salute of the march past of the competitors, I asked the oldest Subedar Major JASWANT SINGH of 2 RAJPUT (QVOLI) of PILKHUWA, MEERUT District to do the opening ceremoney by cutting the tape with all other 'veterans' standing on either side of the dias. I think it went down very well and was much appreciated by all. We should take special pains to have some such ceremoney where the 'oldest of the Old Boys' is given some position of honour during the Reunion.

SPEECHES

12 They should be confined to a few only. At an opening ceremoney, at the sports prize distribution, and the after Dinner Speech or speeches in the Mess.

THE EVENING WITH THE RAJPUTS

13 Either the sports and the prize distribution should be over by sunset, so that an hour's break could be given for fixing up the electric connections, and the function to start and finish punctually, so that the Regimental Dinner is not delayed unduly or it be held the previous evening. In this instance, although the Tattoo was very well executed it too long, and the Dinner was not over till about midnight inspite of missing one or two of the ~~xx~~ items. For the Tattoo officers must come dressed for dinner, so that no time is lost in dressing after the tattoo. Col COSENS and the guests must have had serious qualms about our punctuality, and after all the dinner in the mess is very much a parade and more so on such important occasions, when everything should be to perfection.

THE REGIMENTAL GUEST NIGHT

14 The following toasts should be drunk:-

The President; Absent ~~daxx~~ Boys past and present,;

Messages:- From the Colonel of the Regiment and others.

To The Regimental Dinner Club or The Rajput Association in UK.

Our Pakistani Brother officers who served with the Regiment to be addressed to the senior in Service in Pakistan.

THE REGIMENTAL CREST

15 Our first battle honour is 'DELHI 1803'. To my mind this should be shown very prominently in all our ~~xxxxx~~ programmes, journal cover etc. Its significance we should stress is not so much that we fought for the British, but that we conquered the ancient capital of our land from the hands of a foreign power - The Moghals, who were the masters of DELHI at the time.